

## NOAA AND ITS PARTNERS LAUNCH RESTORATION PLANNING PROGRAM FOR LOUISIANA



*A response vessel places a boom to contain oil as it moved downriver following a recent oil spill on the Calcasieu River in Louisiana.*

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) is pleased to announce the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program, which is designed to expedite the restoration of marine habitats injured by Louisiana's frequent oil spills. Because of the number of petroleum activities in Louisiana, the state has a higher likelihood of a spill than most other states. Between 1991 and 2001, Louisiana had 19% of the total oil spills in the United States and 21% of the volume of discharges of petroleum products. The cumulative impact of oil spills on fish, wildlife, and the environment can harm industries and the communities that depend

on natural resources for commerce and recreation. Natural resource trustees, including NOAA, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the State of Louisiana, developed this innovative statewide program to assist with their responsibilities under Oil Pollution Act and various other statutes.

Under the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program the state will be divided into nine regions and for each region a Regional Restoration Plan will describe the:

- Resources and services likely to be injured by an oil spill,
- Suitable restoration types for various injuries, and
- Available projects that can be implemented at the local level to compensate for these injuries.

Having these regional restoration plans in place will help the natural resource trustees respond to and manage the oil spills in Louisiana and reduce the cost and time required for restoration planning and implementation. The framework and the major provisions of the Regional Restoration Planning Program are outlined in a Final Programmatic [Environmental Impact Statement](#) (PDF) available at <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>. [The first regional plan](#) (PDF), for the delta area in southeast Louisiana, is also available on the DARRP website.